



Tony Vetter and Sandra Pyle were tied for the Gr. 13 chemistry award.



From the left are Tony Vetter, valedictorian, who received many awards, Monica Wolnik, winner of G.W. Proficiency Cup and runner up for the A.J. Eckhardt Trophy and Mark Gregory, winner of the A.J. Eckhardt Trophy for General Proficiency. — Photos by Bill Lanning



Edna Chua broke into tears at the musical rendition of "that's what friends are for".



MDHS Commencement

They're the tops!

By STEVE HOUSTON
Staff Reporter
Markham District High School's academic best just keep getting better.

Of the 500 graduating students at MDHS in 1986, no less than 65 were honored with Ontario Scholar awards — more than double the amount of graduates who received the honor last year.

And as far as Director of Guidance Services Larry Halliday is concerned, that's just fine thank you very much.

"We're very proud of the fact that we had more Ontario Scholars this year than in any other year in our history," said Mr. Halliday last Tuesday.

The school's grads recently celebrated their achievements at MDHS commencement cere-

monies. Together, they walked off with an impressive array of trophies, scholarships and medals.

Topping the list of award winners was Markham's Tony Vetter who took home the A.C. Neilsen Award for English, the J. Leonard Beaupre Mathematics and Science Award, the Edward and Mary Clark Scholarship (best marks), and the York Region Board General Proficiency Award.

Tony was also chosen the Grade 13 Valedictorian for 1986.

Other winners at the ceremony were Classcom Scholarship recipient Lesley Myers, Henry George Mingay Medal winner for literary excellence Lisa Martinello, Donald McDonald Memorial History Scholarship recipient Charles Morgan and the

Chesebrough-Ponds Chemistry award winner Sandra Pyle.

This year also marked the first presentation of the Jeff Nihda Memorial Award for a Grade 12 student with the highest average in Art who will pursue further studies in the Visual Arts field.

The award, designed by MDHS teacher Dorsey James, was established to honor MDHS student Jeff Nihda who was killed earlier this year in a car accident.

The first recipient was Grade 12 student Mark Kneeshaw, who plans to attend Sheridan College and study photographic arts.

"Markham standards are high," observed Mr. Halliday. "Our students do very well in their first year of college or university."

To prove his point, he said that on average, post-secondary first year students experience a drop of 15 per cent in marks. Traditionally, MDHS students average only a six or seven per cent drop, he said.

"But that's just one example," he noted. "We know that our students do very well."

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